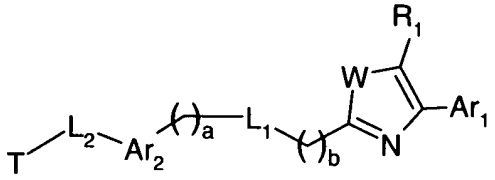
Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of Formula (I):



(I)

wherein

a and b are, independently, equal to 0, 1, or 2, wherein the values of 0, 1 , and 2 represent a direct bond , $-CH_2-$, and $-CH_2CH_2-$, respectively, and wherein the $-CH_2-$ and $-CH_2CH_2-$ groups are optionally substituted 1 to 2 times with a substituent group, wherein said substituent group(s) are selected from the group consisting of: -alkyl, -aryl, -alkylene-aryl, -arylene-alkyl, -alkylene-arylene-alkyl, -O-alkyl, -O-aryl, and –hydroxyl;

W is –O-, -S-, or $-N(R_2)-$,

wherein

R_2 is

a) -hydrogen;

b) -alkyl;

c) $-L_3$-D-G

d) $-L_3$-D-alkyl:

e) $-L_3$-D-aryl;

f) $-L_3$-D-heteroaryl;

g) $-L_3$-D-cycloalkyl;

h) $-L_3$-D-heterocyclyl;

i) $-L_3$-D-arylene-alkyl;

j) $-L_3$-D-alkylene-arylene-alkyl;

k) – L_3-D-alkylene-aryl;

l) –L_3-D-alkyl-G;

m) – L_3-D-aryl-G;

n) – L_3-D-heteroaryl-G;

o) – L_3-D-cycloalkyl-G;

p) – L_3-D-heterocyclyl-G;

q) – L_3-D-arylene-alkyl-G;

r) – L_3-D-alkylene-arylene-alkyl-G; or

s) – L_3-D-alkylene-aryl-G;

wherein

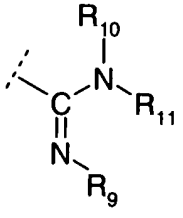
L_3 is a direct bond, –alkylene, -alkenylene, or alkynylene;

D is a direct bond, $–CH_2$-, -O-, $-N(R_5)$-, -C(O)-, $-CON(R_5)$-, $-N(R_6)C(O)$-, $-N(R_6)CON(R_5)$-, $-N(R_5)C(O)O$-, $-OC(O)N(R_5)$-, $-N(R_5)SO_2$-, $-SO_2N(R_5)$-, -C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-, -S-, -S(O)-, $-S(O_2)$-, or $-N(R_5)SO_2N(R_6)$-, -N=N-, or $-N(R_5)$-$N(R_6)$-;

wherein

R_5 and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of: -hydrogen, -alkyl, -aryl, -arylene-alkyl, -alkylene-aryl, and -alkylene-arylene-alkyl; and

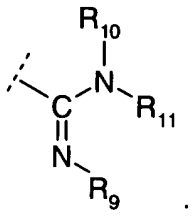
G is hydrogen, –CN, $-SO_3H$, $-P(O)(OH)_2$, $-P(O)(O\text{-alkyl})(OH)$, $–CO_2H$,



$-CO_2$-alkyl, an acid isostere, $-NR_7R_8$, or ;

wherein

R_7 and R_8 are independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, -alkyl, $-L_4$-E-alkyl, $-L_4$-E-aryl, -C(O)-alkyl, -C(O)-aryl, $-SO_2$-alkyl, $-SO_2$-aryl, and



;

wherein

R_9, R_{10}, and R_{11} are independently selected from the group consisting of: -hydrogen, -alkyl, -aryl, -arylene-alkyl, -alkylene-aryl, and -alkylene-arylene-alkyl;

L_4 is a direct bond, –alkylene, -alkenylene , or -alkynylene;

E is a direct bond, $-CH_2-$, -O-, $-N(R_{12})-$, -C(O)-, $-CON(R_{12})-$, $-N(R_{12})C(O)-$, $-N(R_{12})CON(R_{13})-$, $-N(R_{12})C(O)O-$, $-OC(O)N(R_{12})-$, $-N(R_{12})SO_2-$, $-SO_2N(R_{12})-$, -C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-, -S-, -S(O)-, $-S(O_2)-$, $-N(R_{12})SO_2N(R_{13})-$, -N=N-, or $-N(R_{12})-N(R_{13})-$

wherein

R_{12} and R_{13} are independently selected from the group consisting of: -hydrogen, -alkyl, -aryl, -arylene-alkyl, -alkylene-aryl, and -alkylene-arylene-alkyl;

R_1 is

a) -hydrogen;
b) –fluoro;
c) –chloro;
d) –bromo;
e) –iodo;
f) –cyano;
g) -alkyl;
h) –aryl;
i) -alkylene-aryl;
j) -heteroaryl;
k) –alkylkene-heteroaryl;

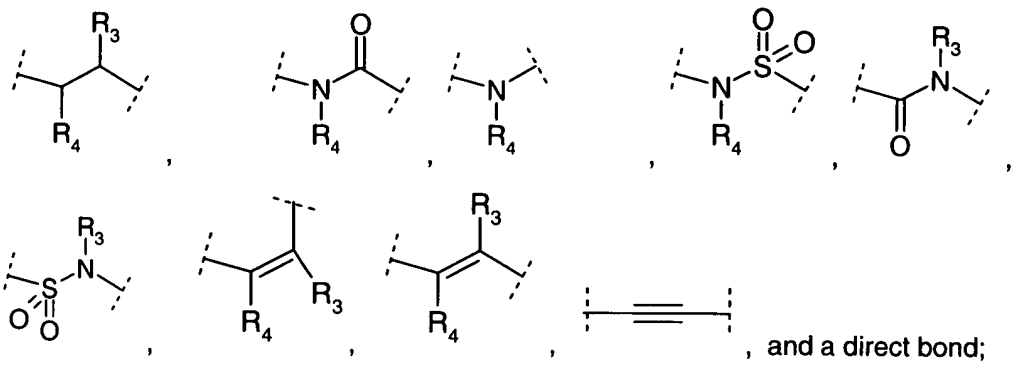
l) –cycloalkyl;

m) –alkylene-cycloalkyl

n) – heterocyclyl; or

o) – alkylene-heterocyclyl;

L_1 is selected from the group consisting of:


, and a direct bond;

wherein R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, chloro, fluoro, bromo, alkyl, aryl, -alkylene-aryl, -cycloalkyl, -alkylene-cycloalkyl, -heterocyclyl, -alkylene-heterocyclyl, and -alkynylene [[.]] ;

Ar_1 is an aryl, heteroaryl, fused cycloalkylaryl, fused cycloalkylheteroaryl, fused heterocyclylaryl, or fused heterocyclylheteroaryl group optionally substituted 1 to 7 times;

Ar_2 is an arylene, heteroarylene, fused arylcycloalkylene, fused cycloalkylarylene, fused cycloalkylheteroarylene, fused heterocyclylarylene, or fused heterocyclylheteroarylene group optionally substituted 1 to 7 times;

L_2 is selected from the group consisting of: $-CH_2-$, -O-, alkylene, alkenylene, alkynelene, -K-alkylene-, -alkylene-K-, -alkylene-K-alkylene-, -alkenylene-K-alkylene-, -alkylene-K-alkenylene-, -arylene-K-alkylene-, alkylene-K-arylene, -heteroarylene-K-alkylene-, alkylene-K-heteroarylene, -arylene-K-, -K-arylene-, -heteroarylene-K-, -K-heteroarylene, and a direct bond,

wherein

K is a direct bond, -$N(R_{20})$-, -C(O)-, -$CON(R_{20})$-, -$N(R_{20})C(O)$-, -$N(R_{20})CON(R_{21})$-, -$N(R_{20})C(O)O$-, -$OC(O)N(R_{20})$-, -$N(R_{20})SO_2$-, -$SO_2N(R_{20})$-, -C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-, -S-, -S(O)-, -$S(O_2)$-, -$N(R_{20})SO_2N(R_{21})$-, -N=N-, or -$N(R_{20})$-$N(R_{21})$-; -$N(R_{20})$-, -C(O)-, -$CON(R_{20})$-, -$N(R_{20})C(O)$-, -$N(R_{20})CON(R_{21})$-, -$N(R_{20})C(O)O$-, -$OC(O)N(R_{20})$-, -$N(R_{20})SO_2$-, -$SO_2N(R_{20})$-, -C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-, -S , -S(O)-, -$S(O_2)$-, -$N(R_{20})SO_2N(R_{21})$-, -N=N-, or -$N(R_{20})$-$N(R_{21})$- or a direct bond,

wherein

R_{20} and R_{21} are independently selected from the group: -hydrogen, -alkyl, -aryl, -arylene- alkyl, -alkylene-aryl, and -alkylene-arylene-alkyl;

T is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl, heteroaryl, fused cycloalkylaryl, fused cycloalkylheteroaryl, fused heterocyclylaryl, and fused heterocyclylheteroaryl group optionally substituted 1 to 7 times,

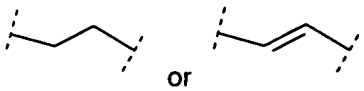
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or prodrug thereof.

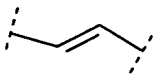
2. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein W is –O- or –$N(R_2)$-, wherein R_2 is hydrogen, alkyl, or –L_3-D-alkylene-aryl, wherein L_3 is alkylene, and D is -$CO(NR_5)$-, wherein R_5 is hydrogen.

3. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R_1 is hydrogen or aryl.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R_1 is hydrogen.

5. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein L_1 is


or

6. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein L_1 is  .

7. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Ar_1 is a phenyl or naphthyl group optionally having 1 to 5 substituents, wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of:

a) -fluoro;
b) -chloro;
c) -bromo;
d) -iodo;
e) -cyano;
f) -nitro;
g) -perfluoroalkyl;
h) -J-R_{14};
i) -alkyl;
j) -aryl;
k) -heteroaryl;
l) -heterocyclyl;
m) -cycloalkyl;
n) -L_5-aryl;
o) - L_5-arylene-aryl;
p) - L_5-arylene-alkyl;
q) -arylene-alkyl;
r) -arylene-arylene-alkyl;
s) -J-alkyl;
t) -J-aryl;
u) -J-alkylene-aryl;
v) -J-arylene-alkyl;

w) -J-alkylene-arylene-aryl;

x) -J-arylene-arylene-aryl;

y) -J-alkylene-arylene-alkyl;

z) - L_5-J-alkylene-aryl;

aa) -arylene-J-alkyl;

bb) - L_5-J-aryl;

cc) - L_5-J-heteroaryl;

dd) - L_5-J-cycloalkyl;

ee) - L_5-J-heterocyclyl;

ff) - L_5-J-arylene-alkyl;

gg) - L_5-J-alkylene-arylene-alkyl;

hh) - L_5-J-alkyl;

ii) - L_5-J-R_{14};

jj) -arylene-J-R_{14}; and

kk) -hydrogen;

wherein

L_5 is a direct bond, –alkylene, -alkenylene, or -alkynylene;

J is a direct bond, $-CH_2-$, -O-, $-N(R_{15})-$, -C(O)-, $-CON(R_{15})-$, $-N(R_{15})C(O)-$, $-N(R_{15})CON(R_{16})-$, $-N(R_{15})C(O)O-$, $-OC(O)N(R_{15})-$, $-N(R_{15})SO_2-$, $-SO_2N(R_{15})-$, -C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-, -S-, -S(O)-, $-S(O_2)-$, $-N(R_{15})SO_2N(R_{16})-$, -N=N-, or $-N(R_{15})-N(R_{16})-$,

wherein

R_{14}, R_{15}, and R_{16} are independently selected from a group consisting of: -hydrogen, -alkyl, -aryl, -arylene-alkyl, -alkylene-aryl, and -alkylene-arylene-alkyl.

8. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Ar_1 is a phenyl group optionally substituted 1 to 5 times, wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of:

a) -fluoro;

b) -chloro;

c) -bromo;

d) -iodo;

e) -cyano;

f) –nitro; and

g) -aryl.

9. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Ar_1 is a phenyl group substituted 1 to 5 times, wherein the substituents are selected from the group consisting of: -chloro ~~or~~ and -fluoro.

10. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Ar_2 is a phenylene or naphthylene group optionally having 1 to 5 substituents, wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of:

a) -fluoro;

b) -chloro;

c) -bromo;

d) -iodo;

e) -cyano;

f) -nitro;

g) -perfluoroalkyl;

h) -Q-R_{17};

i) -alkyl;

j) -aryl;

k) -heteroaryl;

l) -heterocyclyl;

m) -cycloalkyl;

n) -L_6-aryl;

o) -L_6-arylene-aryl;

p) -L_6-arylene-alkyl;

q) -arylene-alkyl;

r) -arylene-arylene-alkyl;

s) -Q-alkyl;

t) -Q-aryl;

u) -Q-alkylene-aryl;

v) -Q-arylene-alkyl;

w) -Q-alkylene-arylene-aryl;

x) -Q-arylene-arylene-aryl;

y) -Q-alkylene-arylene-alkyl;

z) -L_6-Q-alkylene-aryl;

aa) -arylene-Q-alkyl;

bb) -L_6-Q-aryl;

cc) -L_6-Q-heteroaryl;

dd) -L_6-Q-cycloalkyl;

ee) -L_6-Q-heterocyclyl;

ff) -L_6-Q-arylene-alkyl;

gg) -L_6-Q-alkylene-arylene-alkyl;

hh) -L_6-Q-alkyl;

ii) -L_6-Q-alkylene-aryl-R_{17};

jj) -L_6-Q-alkylene-heteroaryl-R_{17};

kk) -arylene-Q-alkylene-R_{17};

ll) -heteroarylene-Q-alkylene-R_{17};

mm) -L_6-Q-aryl-R_{17};

nn) -L_6-Q-heteroarylene-R_{17};

oo) -L_6-Q-heteroaryl-R_{17};

pp) –L_6-Q-cycloalkyl-R_{17};

qq) –L_6-Q-heterocyclyl-R_{17};

rr) –L_6-Q-arylene-alkyl-R_{17};

ss) –L_6-Q-heteroarylene-alkyl-R_{17};

tt) –L_6-Q-alkylene-arylene-alkyl-R_{17};

uu) –L_6-Q-alkylene-heteroarylene-alkyl-R_{17};

vv) –L_6-Q-alkylene-cycloalkylene-alkyl-R_{17};

ww) –L_6-Q-alkylene-heterocyclylene-alkyl-R_{17};

xx) –L_6-Q-alkyl-R_{17};

yy) –L_6-Q-R_{17};

zz) -arylene-Q-R_{17};

aaa) -heteroarylene-Q-R_{17};

bbb) -heterocyclylene-Q-R_{17};

ccc) -Q-alkylene-R_{17};

ddd) -Q-arylene-R_{17};

eee) -Q-heteroarylene-R_{17};

fff) -Q-alkylene-arylene-R_{17};

ggg) -Q-alkylene-heteroarylene-R_{17};

hhh) -Q-heteroarylene-alkylene- R_{17};

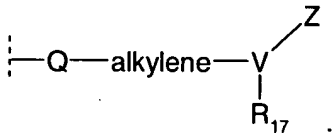
iii) -Q-arylene-alkylene- R_{17};

jjj) -Q-cycloalkylene-alkylene- R_{17};

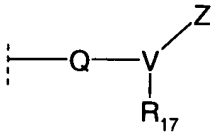
kkk) -Q-heterocyclylene-alkylene- R_{17}

lll) -Q-alkylene-arylene-alkyl- R_{17};

mmm) -Q-alkylene-heteroarylene-alkyl- R_{17};

nnn) 

;

ooo) 

; and

ppp) –hydrogen

wherein

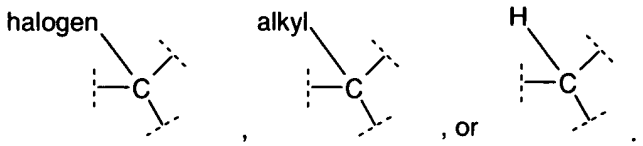
L_6 is a direct bond, –alkylene, -alkenylene, or -alkynylene;

Q is a direct bond, $–CH_2$-, -O-, -$N(R_{18})$-, -C(O)-, -$CON(R_{18})$-, -$N(R_{18})C(O)$-, -$N(R_{18})CON(R_{19})$-, -$N(R_{18})C(O)O$-, -$OC(O)N(R_{18})$-, -$N(R_{18})SO_2$-, -$SO_2N(R_{18})$-, -C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-, -S-, -S(O)-, -$S(O_2)$-, -$N(R_{18})SO_2N(R_{19})$-, -N=N-, or -$N(R_{18})$-$N(R_{19})$-;

wherein

R_{18} and R_{19} are independently selected from the group consisting of: -hydrogen, -alkyl, -aryl, -arylene-alkyl, -alkylene-aryl, ~~or~~ and -alkylene-arylene-alkyl;

V is



;

Z is hydrogen, -alkylene-aryl, -alkyl, -aryl, -heteroaryl, -heterocyclyl, -cycloalkyl, -alkylene-heteroaryl, or -alkylene-cycloalkyl;

R_{17} is $-SO_3H$, $-P(O)(OH)_2$, $-P(O)(O\text{-alkyl})(OH)$, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2$-alkyl, an acid isostere, hydrogen, -alkyl, -aryl, -arylene-alkyl, -alkylene-aryl, or -alkylene-arylene-alkyl.

11. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Ar_2 is a phenyl group or naphthyl group optionally substituted 1 to 5 times, wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of:

a) -fluoro;
b) -chloro;
c) -bromo;
d) -iodo;
e) $-Q-R_{17}$;
f) -alkyl;
g) -aryl;
h) -arylene-alkyl;
i) -Q-alkyl; and
j) -arylene-Q-alkyl;

wherein

Q is $-CH_2-$, -O-, -C(O)-, or -C(O)-O-, and

R_{17} is: -hydrogen, -alkyl, -aryl, $-CO_2H$, or an acid isostere.

12. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Ar_2 is a phenyl group

substituted 1 to 5 times, wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of:

a) -fluoro;

b) -chloro;

c) -bromo;

d) -iodo;

e) -Q-R_{17};

f) -alkyl;

g) -phenyl;

h) -phenylene-alkyl;

i) -Q-alkyl; and

j) -phenylene-Q-alkyl;

wherein

Q is: $-CH_2$-, -O-, -C(O)-, or -C(O)-O-, and

R_{17} is: -hydrogen, -alkyl, –phenyl, or -CO_2H.

13. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein L_2 is: $-CH_2$-, -O-, alkylene, alkenylene, -O-alkylene-, -alkylene-O-, -N(R_{20})-, -C(O)-, -CON(R_{20})-, -N(R_{20})C(O)-, -N(R_{20})CON(R_{21})-, -N(R_{20})C(O)O-, -OC(O)N(R_{20})-, -N(R_{20})SO_2-, -SO_2N(R_{20})-, -C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-, -S-, -S(O)-, -S(O_2)-, -N(R_{20})SO_2N(R_{21})-, -N=N-, or -N(R_{20})-N(R_{21})- or a direct bond, wherein R_{20} and R_{21} independently selected from the group consisting of: -hydrogen, -alkyl, -aryl, -arylene-alkyl, -alkylene-aryl, and -alkylene-arylene-alkyl.

14. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein L_2 is: -O-, -O-alkylene-, -alkylene-O, or a direct bond.

15. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein L_2 is: -O-alkylene- or a direct bond.

16. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein T is an aryl group optionally having 1 to 5 substituents, wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of:

a) -fluoro;
b) -chloro;
c) -bromo;
d) -iodo;
e) -cyano;
f) -nitro;
g) -perfluoroalkyl;
h) -U-R_{22};
i) -alkyl;
j) -aryl;
k) -heteroaryl;
l) -heterocyclyl;
m) -cycloalkyl;
n) -L_7-aryl;
o) –L_7-arylene-aryl;
p) –L_7-arylene-alkyl;
q) -arylene-alkyl;
r) -arylene-arylene-alkyl;
s) -U-alkyl;
t) -U-aryl;
u) -U-alkylene-aryl;
v) -U-arylene-alkyl;
w) -U-alkylene-arylene-aryl;
x) -U-arylene-arylene-aryl;
y) -U-alkylene-arylene-alkyl;
z) –L_7-U-alkylene-aryl;
aa) -arylene-U-alkyl;
bb) –L_7-U-aryl;
cc) –L_7-U-heteroaryl;

dd) $-L_7$-U-cycloalkyl;

ee) $-L_7$-U-heterocyclyl;

ff) $-L_7$-U-arylene-alkyl;

gg) $-L_7$-U-alkylene-arylene-alkyl;

hh) $-L_7$-U-alkyl;

ii) $-L_7$-U-alkylene-aryl- R_{22};

jj) $-L_7$-U-alkylene-heteroaryl- R_{22};

kk) -arylene-U-alkylene- R_{22};

ll) -heteroarylene-U-alkylene- R_{22};

mm) $-L_7$-U-aryl- R_{22};

nn) $-L_7$-U-heteroarylene- R_{22};

oo) $-L_7$-U-heteroaryl- R_{22};

pp) $-L_7$-U-cycloalkyl- R_{22};

qq) $-L_7$-U-heterocyclyl- R_{22};

rr) $-L_7$-U-arylene-alkyl- R_{22};

ss) $-L_7$-U-heteroarylene-alkyl- R_{22};

tt) $-L_7$-U-alkylene-arylene-alkyl- R_{22};

uu) $-L_7$-U-alkylene-heteroarylene-alkyl- R_{22};

vv) $-L_7$-Q-alkylene-cycloalkylene-alkyl-R_{22};

ww) $-L_7$-Q-alkylene-heterocyclylene-alkyl-R_{22};

xx) $-L_7$-U-alkyl- R_{22};

yy) $-L_7$-U- R_{22};

zz) -arylene-U- R_{22};

aaa) -heteroarylene-U- R_{22};

bbb) -heterocyclylene-U- R_{22};

ccc) -U-alkylene- R_{22};

ddd) -U-arylene- R_{22};

eee) -U-heteroarylene- R_{22};

fff) -U-alkylene-arylene- R_{22};

ggg) -U-alkylene-heteroarylene- R_{22};

hhh) -U-heteroarylene-alkylene- R_{22};

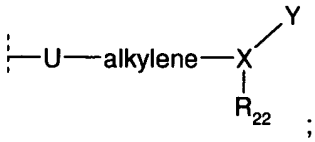
iii) -U-arylene-alkylene- R_{22};

jjj) -U-cycloalkylene-alkylene- R_{22};

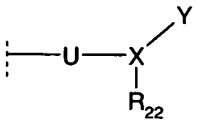
kkk) -U-heterocyclylene-alkylene- R_{22};

lll) -U-alkylene-arylene-alkyl- R_{22};

mmm) -U-alkylene-heteroarylene-alkyl- R_{22};

nnn) 

;

ooo) 

; and

ppp) –hydrogen;

wherein

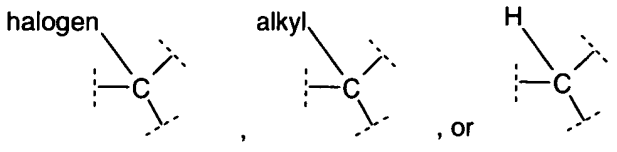
L_7 is a direct bond, –alkylene, -alkenylene, or -alkynylene;

U is a direct bond, $-CH_2-$, -O-, $-N(R_{23})-$, -C(O)-, $-CON(R_{23})-$, $-N(R_{23})C(O)-$, $-N(R_{23})CON(R_{24})-$, $-N(R_{23})C(O)O-$, $-OC(O)N(R_{23})-$, $-N(R_{23})SO_2-$, $-SO_2N(R_{23})-$, -C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-, -S-, -S(O)-, $-S(O_2)-$, $-N(R_{23})SO_2N(R_{24})-$, -N=N-, or $-N(R_{23})-N(R_{24})-$;

wherein

R_{23} and R_{24} are independently selected from the group consisting of: -hydrogen, -alkyl, -aryl, -arylene-alkyl, -alkylene-aryl, and -alkylene-arylene-alkyl;

X is



, , or ;

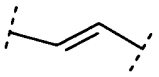
Y is hydrogen, -alkylene-aryl, -alkyl, -aryl, -heteroaryl, -heterocyclyl, -cycloalkyl, -alkylene-heteroaryl, or -alkylene-cycloalkyl;

R_{22} is $-SO_3H$, $-P(O)(OH)_2$, -P(O)(O-alkyl)(OH), $–CO_2H$, $-CO_2$-alkyl, an acid isostere, -hydrogen, -alkyl, -aryl, -arylene-alkyl, -alkylene-aryl, or -alkylene-arylene-alkyl.

17. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein T is an aryl group subsituted by -U-alkylene-R_{22}, wherein U is -O- or a direct bond, and R_{22} is $-CO_2H$ or an acid isostere.

18. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 16 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

a and b are equal to zero;

L_1 is  ;

Ar_2 is a phenylene group optionally substituted 1 time with a group consisting of: -Q-alkyl, wherein Q is -O-;

L_2 is a direct bond, O-alkylene, or an -alkynylene; and

T is an aryl group substituted with at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of:

a) -U-R_{22};

b) -U-alkylene-arylene-R_{22};

c) -U-alkylene-R_{22};

d) -U-arylene-R_{22};

e) -U-arylene-R_{22} wherein the arylene is substituted with at least one of a halogen, methanesulfonylamino, or trifluoromethanesulfonylamino group [[.]] ;

f) -U-arylene wherein the arylene is substituted with at least one trifluromethanesulfonylamino group;

g) -R_{22}; and

h) -halogen;

wherein R_{22} is $-CO_2H$ or an acid isotere.

19. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

a and b are equal to zero;

R_1 is hydrogen;

W is $-N(R_2)-$, wherein R_2 is alkyl; and

Ar_1 is aryl substituted 2 times wherein the substituent groups are –chloro.

20. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein W is $-N(R_2)-$, wherein R_2 is $-L_3$-D-alkylene-arylene-G, wherein L_3 is a direct bond or alkylene, D is a direct bond, or -O-, and G is –CN, $-SO_3H$, $-P(O)(OH)_2$, -P(O)(O-alkyl)(OH), $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2$-alkyl, or an acid isostere.

21. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein a and b are equal to 0, and T, L_2, Ar_2, and L_1 together form a group selected from a group consisting of:

(E)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)vinyl, (E)-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)vinyl, (E)-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)vinyl, (E)-2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)vinyl, (E)-2-(2,3,4-trimethoxyphenyl)vinyl, (E)-2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)vinyl, (E)-2-phenylvinyl, (E)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)vinyl, (E)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)vinyl, (E)-2-(4-bromophenyl)vinyl, (E)-2-(1,1'-biphenyl-4-yl)vinyl, (E)-2-(1-naphthyl)vinyl, (E)-2-(2-naphthyl)vinyl, 9H-fluoren-9-ylidenemethyl, (E)-2-(4'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl-4-yl)vinyl, (E)-2-(3'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl-4-yl)vinyl, (E)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)vinyl, 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl, (E)-2-(4'-carboxymethyloxy-1,1'-biphenyl-4-yl)vinyl, (E)-2-(4'-(3-methoxycarbonyl-1-propyloxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-4-yl)vinyl, (E)-2-(4'-(3-carboxy-1-proploxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-4-yl)vinyl, (E)-2-(4'-phenoxy-1,1'-biphenyl-4-yl)vinyl, and (E)-2-(4'-benzyloxy-1,1'-biphenyl-4-yl)vinyl.

22. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Ar_1 is: 2,4-dichlorophenyl.

23. (Currently Amended) The compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1, where the compound of Formula (I) is:

4-(4'-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-ethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-3-fluoro-biphenyl-4-yloxymethyl)-benzoic acid;

4-(4-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-ethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-phenoxymethyl)-benzoic acid;

4-[4'-(2-{4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-[(1-naphthalen-1-yl-ethylcarbamoyl)-methyl] 1H-imidazol-2-yl}-(E)-vinyl)-biphenyl-4-yloxy]-butyric acid;

4-(4'-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-ethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-biphenyl-4-yloxy)-butyric acid;

5-[3-(4'-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-ethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-biphenyl-4-yloxy)-propyl]-1H-tetrazole;

[4-(3-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-4-methoxy-phenyl-ethynyl)-phenoxy]-acetic acid;

4-[3-(4-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-phenylethynyl)-phenoxy]-butyric acid;

5-[3-(4'-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-methyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-biphenyl-4-yloxy)-propyl]-1H-tetrazole;

5-(4'-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-methyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-biphenyl-4-yloxy)-pentanoic acid

2-bromo-4-(4'-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-methyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-biphenyl-4-yloxy)-benzoic acid;

4-(4'-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-ethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-biphenyl-4-yloxymethyl)-benzoic acid;

4-(4'-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-ethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-biphenyl-4-yloxy)-benzoic acid;

2-bromo-4-(4'-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-ethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-biphenyl-4-yloxy)-benzoic acid;

4-(4'-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-ethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-biphenyl-4-yloxy)-3-methanesulfonylamino-benzoic acid;

4-(4'-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-ethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-biphenyl-4-yloxy)-3-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-amino-benzoic acid;

5-(4'-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-ethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-biphenyl-4-yloxy)-2-methanesulfonylamino-benzoic acid;

5-(4'-{2-[4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1-ethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-biphenyl-4-yloxy)-2-trifluoromethane-sulfonylamino-benzoic acid; or

4-(4'-{2-[4-(2,4-Dichloro-phenyl)-1-ethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-(E)-vinyl}-biphenyl-4-yloxy)-butyric acid 2,2-dimethyl-propionyloxymethyl ester,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a ~~pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or prodrug of a compound of Formula (I) according to~~ a compound as claimed in claim 1.

25. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24, wherein said ~~compound is applied to the skin~~ pharmaceutical composition is a topical formulation.

26. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in Claim 1 sufficient to inhibit protein tyrosine phosphatase.

27. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, in the form of an oral dosage or parenteral dosage unit.

28. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, wherein said compound is administered as a dose in a range from about 0.003 to 500 mg/kg of body weight per day.

29. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, wherein said compound is administered as a dose in a range from about 0.1 to 200 mg/kg of body weight per day.

30. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, wherein said compound is administered as a dose in a range from about 0.1 to 100 mg/kg of body weight per day.

31. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, further comprising one or more therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of alkylating agents, antimetabolites, plant alkaloids, antibiotics, hormones, biologic response modifiers, analgesics, NSAIDs, DMARDs, glucocorticoids, sulfonylureas, biguanides, acarbose, PPAR agonists, DPP-IV inhibitors, GK activators, insulin, insulin mimetics, insulin secretagogues, insulin sensitizers, GLP-1, GLP-1 mimetics, cholinesterase inhibitors, antipsychotics, antidepressants, anticonvulsants, HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, cholestyramine, and fibrates. [[.]]

32. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat type I diabetes.

33. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat type II diabetes.

34. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat immune dysfunction.

35. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat AIDS.

36. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat autoimmune diseases.

37. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat glucose intolerance.

38. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat obesity.

39. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat cancer.

40. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat psoriasis.

41. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat allergic diseases.

42. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat infectious diseases.

43. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat inflammatory diseases.

44. (Original) A phrmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat diseases involving the modulated synthesis of growth hormone.

45. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat diseases involving the modulated synthesis of growth factors or cytokines which affect the production of growth hormone.

46. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound as claimed in claim 1, sufficient to treat Alzheimer's disease.

47. (Original) A method of inhibition protein tyrosine phosphatases which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a pharmacologically effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

48. (Currently Amended) A method of prevention and/or treatment of PTPase mediated human diseases, treatment comprising alleviation of one or more symptoms resulting from that disorder, to an outright cure for that particular disorder or prevention of the onset of the disorder, the method comprising administration to a

human in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I)~~ as claimed in claim 1.

49. (Original) The method of claim 47, further comprising administering to a subject in need thereof at least one adjuvant and/or additional therapeutic agent(s).

50. (Currently Amended) A method of treating PTPase mediated diseases, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I)~~ as claimed in claim 1, in combination with one or more therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of alkylating agents, antimetabolites, plant alkaloids, antibiotics, hormones, biologic response modifiers, analgesics, NSAIDs, DMARDs, glucocorticoids, sulfonylureas, biguanides, acarbose, PPAR agonists, DPP-IV inhibitors, GK activators, insulin, insulin mimetics, insulin secretagogues, insulin sensitizers, GLP-1, GLP-1 mimetics, cholinesterase inhibitors, antipsychotics, antidepressants, anticonvulsants, HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, cholestyramine, and fibrates. [[.]]

51. (Currently Amended) A method for treating acute and/or chronic inflammation, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I) as defined~~ as claimed in claim 1.

52. (Currently Amended) A method for treating type I or type II diabetes, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I) as defined~~ as claimed in claim 1.

53. (Currently Amended) A method for treating immune dysfunction, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I) as defined~~ as claimed in claim 1.

54. (Currently Amended) A method for treating AIDS, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I) as defined~~ as claimed in claim 1.

55. (Currently Amended) A method for treating autoimmune disease, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I) as defined~~ as claimed in claim 1.

56. (Currently Amended) A method for treating glucose intolerance, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I) as defined~~ as claimed in claim 1.

57. (Currently Amended) A method for treating cancer, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I) as defined~~ as claimed in claim 1.

58. (Currently Amended) A method for treating psoriasis, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I) as defined~~ as claimed in claim 1.

59. (Currently Amended) A method for treating allergic diseases, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I) as defined~~ as claimed in claim 1.

60. (Currently Amended) A method for treating infectious disease, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I) as defined~~ as claimed in claim 1.

61. (Currently Amended) A method for treating diseases involving the modulated synthesis of growth hormone, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I) as defined~~ as claimed in claim 1.

62. (Currently Amended) A method for treating modulated synthesis of growth factors or cytokines which affect the production of growth hormone, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I) as defined~~ as claimed in claim 1.

63. (Currently Amended) A method for treating Alzheimer's disease, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of Formula (I) as defined~~ as claimed in claim 1.